Auto LPG Dispensing Stations in A.P.

2792. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether public sector oil companies propose to set up auto LPG dispensing stations in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, company-wise;

(c) whether the locations have been identified by ail the oil companies for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof, company-wise; and

(e) what safety norms will be followed in setting up of such stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have commissioned 2 Auto LPG Dispensing Stations (ALDS) in Hyderabad city of Andhra Pradesh. In addition, 11 more ALDS are planned to be set up by the year 2003-04 as per the following details:—

Name of company	Number of ALDS
Indian Oil Corporation Limited	2
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited	4
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited	3
IBP Co. Limited	2

(e) ALDS are set up mainly as per statutory safety norms as laid down in Static & Mobile Pressure Vessel (SMPV) rules.

ONGC Videsh Projects in Libya

2793. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC Videsh Limited has signed an agreement with Turkish Petroleum Overseas Co. to acquire 49 per cent stake in oil and gas exploration in Libya; if so, the details of this project;

(b) what is the location of these exploration blocks and by when the exploration would be resumed; and

(c) the names of the other areas in foreign lands where the Company has such on going projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), the wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has signed a farm out agreement with Turkish Petroleum Overseas Company (TPOC), a subsidiary of National Oil Company of Turkey, on 22nd August 2002 for acquisition of 49 per cent participating interest in the onland exploration blocks NC-188 and NC-189 in Libya. The assignment is subject to the approval of Libyan Government.

(b) Block NC-188 is located in the Ghadames Basin, about 250 Km South of the capital Tripoli, whereas block NC-189 is located in the Sirte Basin about 800 Km South-east of Tripoli.

These blocks were awarded to TPOC on 22nd February 2000 with an exploration period of 5 years. Drilling is planned from 2003 onwards, for which acquisition of seismic data has been completed.

(c) OVL has stakes in one project each in Russia, Vietnam, Iraq, Myanmar and USA.

Excise duty relief to refineries in Assam

2794. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for withdrawal of 100 per cent excise duty relief to Numaligarh Refinery;

(b) whether Government are considering to give 100 per cent excise duty relief to all the four refineries located in Assam; and

(c) if so, what decision has been taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.